

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. In a hospital emergency department having a first doctor assigned to a first area to provide healthcare services to patients, a method for delivering healthcare services comprising the step of assigning a second doctor to a second 5 area to provide healthcare services to non-emergent patients.

2. In a facility having a first area configured to provide healthcare services to patients, a method for delivering healthcare services comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a second area configured to provide healthcare services to non-emergent patients; and
- (b) identifying whether a patient is non-emergent.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the facility is a hospital emergency department.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the identification is performed upon the arrival of the patient at the facility.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the identification is performed by a medical clinician.

6. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of providing a doctor to examine non-emergent patients in the second area.

7. In a facility having a first area configured to provide healthcare services to patients, a method for delivering healthcare services comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) providing a second area configured to provide
healthcare services to non-emergent patients;
 (b) identifying whether a patient is non-emergent;
and
 (c) recording the time a patient arrives at the
facility to receive healthcare services.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the facility is a hospital emergency department.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the identification is performed upon the arrival of the patient at the facility.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the identification is performed by a medical clinician.

11. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of providing a doctor to examine non-emergent patients in the second area.

12. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of queuing non-emergent patients to receive the examination by the doctor by time of arrival.

13. In a facility having a first area configured to provide healthcare services to patients, a method for delivering healthcare services comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) providing a second area configured to provide
healthcare services to non-emergent patients;
 (b) identifying whether a patient is non-emergent;
 (c) recording the time a patient arrives at the
facility to receive healthcare services; and

10 (d) providing the patient a form of compensation when the patient first receives healthcare services more than a predetermined time after the patient's arrival.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the facility is a hospital emergency department.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the identification is performed upon the arrival of the patient at the facility.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein the identification is performed by a medical clinician.

17. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of providing a doctor to examine non-emergent patients in the second area.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of queuing non-emergent patients to receive the examination by the doctor by time of arrival.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein the form of compensation is provided to the patient when the patient has first been examined by a doctor more than a predetermined time after the patient's arrival.

20. In a hospital emergency department having a first area configured for a doctor to provide healthcare services to patients, a method for delivering healthcare services comprising the steps of:

5 (a) assigning a first doctor to provide healthcare services to patients in the first area;

(b) providing a second area configured to provide healthcare services to non-emergent patients;

- 10 (c) assigning a second doctor to provide healthcare services to patients in the second area; and
 (d) identifying whether a patient is non-emergent upon the arrival of the patient at the facility.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the identification is performed by a medical clinician.

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of recording the time the patient arrives at the facility to receive healthcare services.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of queuing non-emergent patients to receive healthcare services by the second doctor by time of arrival.

24. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of providing the patient a form of compensation when the patient first receives healthcare services more than a predetermined time after the patient's arrival.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the form of compensation is provided to the patient when the patient first receives healthcare services from the first or second doctor more than a predetermined time after the patient's arrival.